

subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is granted, there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

(A) The purpose of the travel.

(B) The dates during which the travel is to occur.

(C) The names of the States or countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each.

(D) The names of members and staff of the Committee for whom the authorization is sought.

(2) Members and staff of the Committee shall make a written report to the Chair on any travel they have conducted under this subsection, including a description of their itinerary, expenses, and activities, and of pertinent information gained as a result of such travel.

(3) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, and regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration.

PAY OF WITNESSES

(c) Witnesses may be paid from funds made available to the Committee in its expense resolution subject to the provisions of clause 5 of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

RULE 8—COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

REPORTING

(a) Whenever the Committee authorizes the favorable reporting of a bill or resolution from the Committee—

(1) the Chair or acting Chair shall report it to the House or designate a member of the Committee to do so, and

(2) in the case of a bill or resolution in which the Committee has original jurisdiction, the Chair shall allow, to the extent that the anticipated floor schedule permits, any member of the Committee a reasonable amount of time to submit views for inclusion in the Committee report on the bill or resolution.

Any such report shall contain all matters required by the rules of the House of Representatives (or by any provision of law enacted as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House) and such other information as the Chair deems appropriate.

RECORDS

(b)(1) There shall be a transcript made of each regular meeting and hearing of the Committee, and the transcript may be printed if the Chair decides it is appropriate or if a majority of the Members of the Committee requests such printing. Any such transcripts shall be a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceeding, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require that all such transcripts be subject to correction and publication.

(2) The Committee shall keep a record of all actions of the Committee and of its subcommittees. The record shall contain all information required by clause 2(e)(1) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall be available for public inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee.

(3) All Committee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Chair, shall be the property of the House, and all Members of the House shall have access thereto as provided in clause 2(e)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(4) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in

accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS ON THE INTERNET

(c) To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

CALENDARS

(d)(1) The Committee shall maintain a Committee Calendar, which shall include all bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to or reported by the Committee and all bills, resolutions, and other matters reported by any other committee on which a rule has been granted or formally requested, and such other matters as the Chair shall direct. The Calendar shall be published periodically, but in no case less often than once in each session of Congress.

(2) The staff of the Committee shall furnish each member of the Committee with a list of all bills or resolutions (A) reported from the Committee but not yet considered by the House, and (B) on which a rule has been formally requested but not yet granted. The list shall be updated each week when the House is in session.

(3) For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), a rule is considered as formally requested when the Chairman of a committee which has reported a bill or resolution (or a member of such committee authorized to act on the Chairman's behalf) (A) has requested, in writing to the Chair, that a hearing be scheduled on a rule for the consideration of the bill or resolution, and (B) has supplied the Committee with an adequate number of copies of the bill or resolution, as reported, together with the final printed committee report thereon.

OTHER PROCEDURES

(e) The Chair may establish such other Committee procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out these rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee and its subcommittees in a manner consistent with these rules.

RULE 9—AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended or repealed, in the same manner and method as prescribed for the adoption of committee rules in clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such Member at least 48 hours before the time of the meeting at which the vote on the change occurs. Any such change in the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record within 30 calendar days after their approval.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TANNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BERRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MICHAUD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. UDALL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BELL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MARSHALL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SERIOUS QUESTIONS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me say to my colleagues that we have some very serious questions to answer on behalf of the American people. I want to pay special tribute to the hard work of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and the Democratic leadership on trying to answer these questions for a broad and diverse range of Americans.

Earlier today I called out the specific jobs of beauticians, waitresses, bus drivers, teachers, mechanics, sort of the people in this Nation that do the heavy lifting. There are many other professions, jobs, that really turn the engine of this Nation.

As we are on the very day of the State of the Union, I think it is extremely important as the President speaks tonight that he not speak to the Members of the United States Congress, but he speak to these Americans

who create the engine of our economy. So I hope my words are taken in the manner in which they are offered, because in all of our districts we are finding deep and continuing pain, hurting families, individuals who have lost their jobs with no opportunities for further employment.

Right now we know nearly 6 percent of Americans are unemployed. In the African American community in particular, 17 percent are unemployed. I call that, Mr. Speaker, a crisis.

The Nation's health care system is in need of great reform. Just this last Saturday night I spoke to a group of physicians, private physicians and those who work in our public hospitals. Might I note to one of my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), I would thank him for generating 270 names, bipartisan names, on the question of addressing the Medicare crisis and ensuring that physicians and nurses and others who deal with our health care are provided the amount of payments that will allow them to keep their doors open.

The continuing resolution that we just passed, but more appropriately, the appropriations that we need to pass, has to address the fact that more than malpractice issues, our physicians are closing their doors. They are disenrolling and not enrolling individuals because their payments are not there.

I hope that the very first item that we will deal with as we come back to deal with the 108th Congress will be the idea of freezing or increasing the Medicare payments that are necessary to keep the doors of physicians open. My commitment to our local physicians in Houston, Harris County, is that I will continue to fight for those dollars for physicians, nurses, hospitals, nursing homes, home health services, and other health care providers. That is a key.

One of the other things we need to fight for is full funding of Medicaid, and also the changing of the formula so Texas is not disadvantaged. Right now, our State legislature and the Governor are dealing with a \$10 billion deficit. I hope the President will announce that he has discovered that the dividend discount tax cut helps no one; that he would much rather help the State of Texas, the State of Illinois, Ohio, New York; that he would much rather agree with the Democratic plan to provide block grants of monies to States that will help them in Medicaid funding, that will help them in education funding, and that will help them with special projects, education funding, that will put people to work.

I believe we can always reform. I believe the President can reform his message to address the working people of America.

Let me also say that there has been great concern. I have just filed House Concurrent Resolution 2, which repeals or asks the Congress for a sense of Congress resolution to repeal the October resolution on the Iraqi war.

Mr. Speaker, that vote was a vote of conscience. I challenge no Member in this House as to how they voted. But what I will say is that the Constitution is near and dear to me and many Members of Congress; in fact, all of us. Clearly, we have the right to declare war.

When we debated that resolution, Mr. Speaker, we viewed the words of the President as suggesting that we were under imminent attack, and that there was a nexus between Saddam Hussein, Iraq, and terrorism. Whatever might have occurred, we have more facts now, Mr. Speaker. We do understand, as I close, that there are more indications that we should look for a political resolution. The U.N. inspectors want more time. They need more time to look for nuclear weapons. North Korea is on our very horizon.

Mr. Speaker, people are hurting, and I believe the United States can do better than what we have done. I believe the President can cause us to reach to our higher angels by providing for the working people of America; and saying to the world that we stand on the side of peace; and saying to this Congress, come with me, rise to a new debate, discern and design a better policy about Iraq and North Korea, and then we can spend our dollars on building this Nation again, building jobs, and building peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PRESIDENT'S CREDIBILITY GAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I took to the floor this morning during our morning hour debate to express my concern over what I call the President's credibility problem. I talked about a credibility problem in the context of not only what we expect to be in tonight's State of the Union Address, but also by reference to the State of the Union Address that the President made last year.

What I am talking about essentially when I mention a credibility problem is the fact that the President essentially makes promises about what he is going to do to solve the Nation's problems, particularly the economic downturn; but when we look at what he proposes, the action that he proposes to solve the problem, it does not really solve the problem.

So the promise is made essentially by the President that we are going to turn

around the economic downturn, but when we look at the proposals that he announces to accomplish that goal, there is no way that they could accomplish that goal, because they are not designed to accomplish that goal.

The credibility problem exists in so many areas. It is not only with regard to his economic plan, his so-called stimulus plan, it is also relative to the deficit. The President indicated last year that the deficit would be small, that it would be taken under control. Now we know that the deficit is likely to be at least \$300 billion, and I would venture to say that if the President were able to get his economic stimulus package, his promise to make his tax cuts from last year permanent, to follow through and pay for a potential war in Iraq, that we would probably end up with a deficit that could be upwards of \$2 trillion.

That credibility problem also exists with regard to a number of other issues; for example, health care. The President says that we are going to reform Medicare and we are going to provide a prescription drug benefit for seniors in the context of Medicare. What we find out, and we will hear about tonight, supposedly, is a privatization plan for Medicare that does not guarantee a prescription drug benefit unless you leave traditional Medicare and you join an HMO or some other type of private insurance.

The list goes on. We are told that we are going to do things for veterans, and then we see cuts in money for veterans' health clinics. We are told that we are going to implement a situation where no child is going to be left behind in terms of public education. That is the President's theme. But then we find that there is a huge credibility gap, a huge difference between the rhetoric and the reality, because, in fact, money for education is being cut.

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Affirmative action is another example. The President says he wants diversity, and he appears to give the impression that he is favorable to affirmative action. But then he asks the Justice Department to file a suit against the University of Michigan because of their affirmative action program. And I am not trying to imply the President is purposefully trying to deceive anyone, but I think the reality is that his ideas of what are going to accomplish the goals that he sets out to accomplish are very different from reality. And whether it is an economic plan, whether it is his idea of affirmative action, whether it is his idea of the deficit or his idea on health care, most of these ideas do not actually translate into any action that will accomplish the goals that the President commits himself to.

I guess the worst example in this respect right now and the one that I think is the most injurious is with regard to the economy. We know that the economy has taken a significant down-